Los Altos Environmental Commission

Approved Projects 2010-2011

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	2 &	Goals Approved by City Council Oct 19, 2010	Goals
	انم	Projects 2010-2011	- Progress Updates
	←	Continue to provide approved community (Steve Anderson, Linda DeMichiel)	ifty education and outreach activities to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos.
		a. Deliver updated web site that is visually pleasing, navigates well, has relevant, current content, and ties into city look and feel. (Owner: Linda)	By June 2011: New site is live. By May 2011: Content updates complete. - Mar 2011: Update on 3 out of 6 areas completed. Feb 2011: Update on 2 out of 6 areas completed. Council members committed to complete updates in all areas by Feb 28. Linda will have as many updates as possible done by March 14 EC meeting, with all updates ready for review at Council Meeting in April. Dec 2010: Each area assigned to an EC member to provide updates to Linda. Nov 2010: Subcommittee established (Linda, John, Patty). Commission reviewed initial prototype from Linda. Agreed to (a) change title on home page to "Environment, City of Los Altos," (b) add "About the Environmental Commission" as a subcategory, and (c) add "What's New" page.
		b. Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g Packard Building, Solar) (Owner: Steve)	 Will engage here when there are specific opportunities related to city programs or policies.
	2	Explore enhancements to further impro	Explore enhancements to further improve waste management in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Steve Anderson, Joe Eyre)

a. Monitor MTWS waste diversion and customer requirers because the force of diversion and customer requirers scheduled pickups and diversion and customer requirers scheduled pickups and earlier both of the results available to community, along with MTWS to provide article for LATC, waiting for response accordinated diversion and customer states (Jowner: Don) D. Make results available to community, along with MTWS to provide article for MTWS, showing diversion rate of 73.3% in December 70.9% YTD since decident on how they can help educate outcomes. (Dwner: Joe) Expect of the provide and compositing and composition
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4	Work with Planning Services Manager	Work with Planning Services Manager to develop Sustainability element to Los Altos General Plan. (Joe Eyre, Chris Keller, Linda DeMichiel)
	a. The 2011 CIP includes funds for this project in July 2011. The EC will serve in an advisory and review role. (Owners: Joe, Chris, Linda)	Milestones TBD, based on staff and consultant discussions. — Apr 2011: After some initial miscommunication, staff confirms that there is funding in this year's CIP for updating the General Plan to address AB32 and SB375 requirements, still planned to begin in July 2011. Staff requests EC involvement in the process, specifics TBD.
	Implement approved education prograr	Implement approved education program regarding re-useable bags in Los Altos. (Patty Rosewater)
ດ	a. Continue to partner with Chamber of Commerce in visits with CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens to inquire about their re-usable bag programs.	By Apr 2011: Report on any new legislation/activity regarding reusable bags - Jan 2011: EC Member and ED of Los Altos Chamber of Commerce visit Drug stores in Los Altos to inquire about re-useable bags program. Report published on web site; article in LATC.
	b. Publicize results of reusable bag survey as appropriate.(Owner: Patty)	
	Continue to work to foster water conservation	ervation in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Chris Keller)
	a. Continue to work with Cal Water to develop Los Altos specific baseline. (Owner: Chris)	TBD Cal water data + 4 months: Article re water usage in LATC. TBD Cal Water data + 2 months: Updated baseline with most current information published on web site. TBD based on Cal water data: Baseline of trends over 5 years established, and incorporated into dashboard (see Goal #3).
		 March 2011: Cal water has agreed to elements, still waiting for data. Feb 2011: Chris to arrange for update from GTLA at next month meeting re Cal Water baseline.
		 Nov 2010: Cal Water agreed to provide baseline data to Los Altos. GTLA leading effort to define exact data collected and timeline.

	 b. Incorporate water resource plans into broader "Sustainability Element" above. (Owner: Linda) 	TBD: Program presented to Council as part of Sustainability Element. TBD Cal Water data + 4 months: One program selected and documented to propose to staff and Council for water conservation.
22.00	a. Investigate state requirements and funding opportunities for creek-clean up. (Owner: j)	 By Mar 2011: Report from staff that annual creek cleanup is required by state in order to fulfill permits for storm drainage into creek. General Comment from Council: If any programs require funding, case must be presented in time for annual budget cycle.

Saving Water Outdoors – for Environmental Commission website

Joe Eyre, 6/9/11

Our local water retailers estimate that a large amount of potable water used in our communities is for landscaping:

Los Altos

50+%

Los Altos Hills 78%

If you have remodeled recently, your indoor fixtures and appliances are probably already water efficient. Therefore, the easiest way to reduce your overall water bill is to reduce outdoor water usage.

Outdoor Example:

According to CalWater, in the Los Altos district the average residential single family household used 170,755 gallons in 2010. About 50% of that was for irrigation. If households used 10% less irrigation water/year, that would be 85.4 million gallons savings/year! (10% x 170,755 x 50% x 10,000 households)

Benefits of Landscape Water Conservation

There are many benefits to landscape water conservation and the use of native plants, including:

- Reduced water demand, resulting in lower water bills, less water pulled from the Delta and other sources, less energy used for pumping and purification, and less needed to fund future water supply and purification infrastructure projects.
- Reduced runoff, soil erosion, and costs for storm water management
- Reduced use of lawn chemicals (pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides). The EPA estimates that 70 million pounds of lawn chemicals are applied in the US/year and growing 5-8%/year.
- Reduced service and energy costs for maintenance (electric and gas mowers, etc.)
- Reduced air and noise pollution. Cal Air Resources Board claims that a 3.5 hp lawn mower running for 30 minutes emits the same amount of hydrocarbon pollution by products as a 1997 car going 85 miles.
- Longer life for lawn maintenance equipment
- Reduced labor costs
- Increased native plant, insect, bird, and animal diversity on land and in the streams
- Reduced plant disease, rot, and mortality caused by overwatering

For a chart of benefits of different outdoor water-saving actions, see http://www.cabq.gov/albuquerquegreen/greenguide/in-your-yard-1

Top 10 Ways to Save Waters Outdoors

- 1. Get a "Water Wise House Call" from the Santa Clara Valley Water District http://valleywater.org/programs/ConservationAtHome.aspx, if you have not already. A trained specialist will come to your house and identify ways of conserving water, both indoor and outdoor. The specialist will also identify if you have any leaks in your residential water system.
- 2. Remove some Turf and use native plants: Remove turf areas that your family does not use and potentially realize 15-50% outdoor water savings. Frank Niccoli, a local landscape expert estimates that each 600 sq ft. costs at least \$1,000/year in water, maintenance, fertilizers, etc. Replace turf and other landscape areas with drought-tolerant plants (ideally California natives as they support the local ecology). Take advantage of the water district rebate for turf removal: http://valleywater.org/Programs/LandscapeRebateProgram.aspx. Native plant benefits are explained at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7WuAhHWEzc
- 3. **Spread a layer of organic mulch** around trees and plants. This can save hundreds of gallons of water by retaining moisture while rejuvenating the soil. For mulching tips: http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/tips-04-02.html. Free mulch is available at the Sunnyvale SMART station, 408 752-8530.
- 4. Irrigation equipment: Check your system, repair leaks, and replace damaged sprinkler heads. Convert some or all zones to drip. Install a "Smart" weather-based controller or rain sensor, utilizing the generous rebate from the water district: http://valleywater.org/Programs/LandscapeRebateProgram.aspx
- 5. Irrigation schedule: Try reducing each watering time by one minute. Water your yard only before 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind. Water without waste, shortening zone times if puddles or runoff occur. If you do not have a weather-based irrigation controller, adjust the watering amount monthly by the following factors, using July as the base month when the most water is needed. (from Cal Dept of Water Resources):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
0%	0%	5%	30%	60%	90%	100%	90%	60%	30%	5%	0%

- 6. Keep swimming pools covered when not in use to eliminate evaporation.
- 7. Wash your car at the carwash instead of at home (this saves water and prevents polluting runoff from flowing into the streams).
- 8. **Use shut-off nozzles on hoses.** A half-inch garden hose shoots 75 gallons of water in15minutes. A 5/8" hose uses 96 gallons in 15 minutes and one that is ¾" loses 132 gallons in 15minutes. Use a broom instead of water to clean the drive.
- 9. **Gray Water** (from the clothes washer or bathroom sinks) can be used for irrigation. Info can be found at http://www.whollyh2o.org/graywater.html

10. Rainwater harvesting – capturing water from your roof – can save water. A 3,000 sq foot roof could produce about 28,000 gallons of rainfall per year and prevent all that water from running into the stormdrains and into the creeks. A thorough handbook can be found at http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/rainwaterharvestingmanual_3rdedition.pdf

Additional Resources

- Tips for outdoor water conservation: http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/outdoor-tips/index.php
- List of certified "green gardeners"
 - o http://www.redwoodcity.org/manager/initiatives/climate%20protection/Verde/G G%20overview.pdf
 - o http://www.mywatershedwatch.org/findgardener.html
 - o http://clca.us/water/employs-water-managers.html
- Books on turf replacement:
 - o <u>The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn</u> by John Greenlee
 - The Wild Lawn Handbook: Alternatives to the Traditional Front Lawn by Steve Daniels
- California Native Plant Society http://www.cnps-scv.org/
- Books on the ecological benefits of native plants:
 - o Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy. He has data comparing the wildlife value of native plants to non-natives.
 - o A State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California by Laura Cunningham

Comments to Environmental Commission draft website Joe Eyre 6/13/11

Questions:

- What has the traffic been on the site over the last 12 months?
- Who is the audience?
- What are the objectives of the site?
- How often will we update it?
- Are there city resources to help on web site updating and maintenance?
- Will the Sustainability Element and CAP info be on this site or the city's main site?

Topics

Current web site contents	Potential Topics – how far do we want to go?
Home	Home
Recycling	Climate Change
	Is Climate Change Real?
Hazardous Waste Disposal	Our City's Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Greening an Event	10 Ways to Lower Your Carbon Footprint
Greenhouse Gas Inventory	Transportation alternatives
Green Building	Green Building
	Greening an Event
Alternatives in Transportation	
	Healthy Community and Environment
Water Conservation	Landscaping with Native Plants
	Tree Protection
Landscaping with Native Plants	
Tree Protection	Resource Stewardship
Local Creeks	·
About the Commission	Energy Efficiency, Conservation, & Renewables (includes the sub-page on solar)
City of Los Altos	Eating sustainability
	Reducing waste and recycling
	Hazardous waste disposal
	Water Conservation (top 10 ways to save)
	Local Creeks
	Reducing Runoff Pollution
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	Reducing Wastewater Pollution
	About the Commission
	City of Los Altos

Review of Specific Pages – Draft Environmental Commission Web Site 6/13/11, Joe Eyre

Page called "ALTERNATIVES IN TRANSPORTATION"

- o Might consider putting in a plug to shop locally so you can walk/bike to the store.
- O What % of Los Altos emissions are vehicles?
- o Do we have a % reduction goal for Los Altos?
- o Does the city of Los Altos have a vehicle "greening" goal that we want to mention?
- o Should list the top 4-5 ways in priority to lower one's transportation carbon footprint.
- o Is there a bike map for Los Altos on the city web site or BPAC web site?
- o What about the web sites/phone numbers for carpooling/ride sharing?
- o What about Zip cars and car loaning web sites?
- o Email needs to be updated: environmental@ci.los-altos.ca.us

Creeks Page

- We should point out that our creeks are "arteries" of wild open space flowing through
 Los Altos. We should treat them as a resource for local ecology.
- Point out the parks that border streams so that residents can go and explore them.
- o Should list the top 4-5 ways to protect our streams.
- o There should also be discussion about storm drains running into the streams and why runoff pollution is very harmful and the top 4-5 ways to prevent runoff pollution.
- o I do not think we should say to plant anything but Native Plants. The SCVWD guidelines for non-natives are very complicated. We should just advocate natives ONLY. The SCVWD has the following info called "Planting (local native) PDF 1 MB" at http://www.valleywater.org/programs/creeksidepropertyprogram.aspx
- o Talk about recent creek cleanup or restoration efforts and how to get involved?

Energy Conservation page

- Somewhat limited only talks about lightbulbs (The lightbulb info is very dated no mention of LED's)
- Should graphically show the ways our residents use energy (including energy used for water pumping)
- o What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).
- o Talk about PG&E's current mix and the 33% renewable goal by 2020
- Should list the top 5-10 ways a resident can save energy (electric and natural gas)
- o Talk about what the city is doing to save energy?

Green Building

- This page is somewhat outdated last year Los Altos adopted CalGreen
- We might mention that LA code uses CalGreen, which is a really good start. If people want to go above and beyond, it might be good to list the top ways to do that (such as by solar electric or solar water heating, less turf, weather-based irrigation controllers, etc.)
- o What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Greener Life page

o This seems a little random with a bunch of different suggestions. What is the purpose of this page?

• Green Event page

- Who is this targeted for the city, organizations, or residents? It seems fairly generic with not enough detail to be really useful.
- What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

GreenHouse Gas Inventory Page

- o Should we define what GHG equivalents are and their primary sources?
- o Why does Los Altos care about GHGs?
- o Links did not work
- o What are next steps? (a CAP?)
- What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Hazardous waste page

- i would suggest that there is a page about waste in general and talk about our diversion goals and progress and what people can do to reduce their waste.
- o Should mention that it is illegal to dump anything in the city, such as chemicals in the back yard, paint thinner down the drain, etc.
- o Does not talk about wastewater pollution issues and how to reduce
- Should mention places to drop off medicines (police dept), etc.
- What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Landscaping with Native Plants

- Great to have this info, however, | provided info on saving waters outdoors that may be the bigger title and native plants are one tactic for accomplishing outdoor water savings.
- The photo gallery might be a little intimidating to someone not familiar with native plants. Perhaps find a location that eases people more into the names, where they can grow, etc?
- Need some very simple steps on how to get started with natives.
- o The SCVWD site includes non-natives. Thus, it does not fit on the page as it is now.
- What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Recycling

- I think this might go under a page called something like "Reducing Waste and Recycling" so that the bigger picture on waste can be explained.
- Are we really aiming for: "Mission Trail Waste System is aiming for zero waste"
- o Is this info elsewhere on the city web site?
- What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Solar

- Should this go under the Energy page?
- Should we put some info on where people could observe residential solar installations or where they could go to find out more about it?
- o What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Trees of Los Altos

- Suggest a list of recommended trees for Los Altos in addition to oaks. This list should steer toward native trees but can also include reasonable drought tolerant trees.
- O What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).

Water Conservation

- We can provide much more localized data on water use of Los Altos and how it compares to neighboring cities.
- Suggest breaking this into indoor and outdoor.
- List top ten ways to save water indoor and outdoor.
- o Water FAQ document has some outdated info. I could review and edit the slides.
- o The rebate programs are run by the SCVWD, not CalWater.
- o What are the policies and goals for the City of Los Altos in this area (or link to where those are stated on the main City of Los Altos web site).



Les Atos Sustamability Element Update

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incremental Commission Subsemmittee

- Con Bray
- Jan Burg
- Fauty Rosewale



Agenda

- Why do a Sustainability Element (SE) and Climate Action Plan (CAP)?
 - Los Altos maturity relative to other cities
- The relationship between a sustainability element and CAP
- What's in a sustainability element & CAP?
- Intersections with existing General Plan elements
- The Sustainability Element and the General Plan
- What's the process and timing for developing an SE and CAP?
- Required resources and next steps



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Sustainability Element:

Tie together all sustainability initiatives and programs

Establish goals and policies to direct how the City will work towards its sustainability goals

Raise community awareness, support, and action

Encourage city staff awareness, actions, and interdepartmental cooperation for greater sustainability

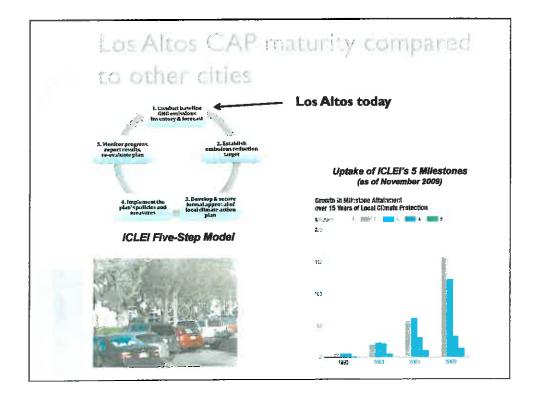
Climate Action Plan:

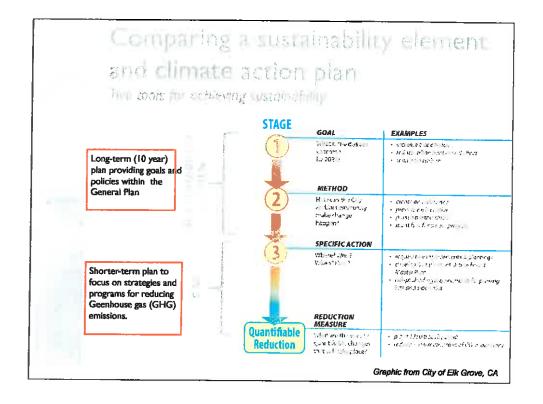
Develop a plan to reduce local GHG emissions

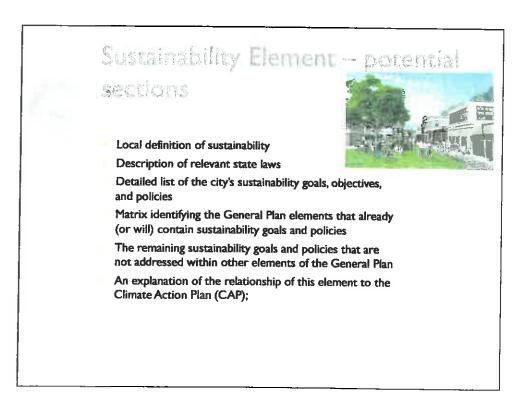
The Scoping Plan for AB 32 recommends that local governments reduce their emissions 15% below current levels by 2020.

Provide a link between all policies that affect GHG emissions

Quantify policy impacts







CAP - potential sections

The California Attorney General's office recommends including the following components:

Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets that apply at reasonable intervals through the life of the plan.

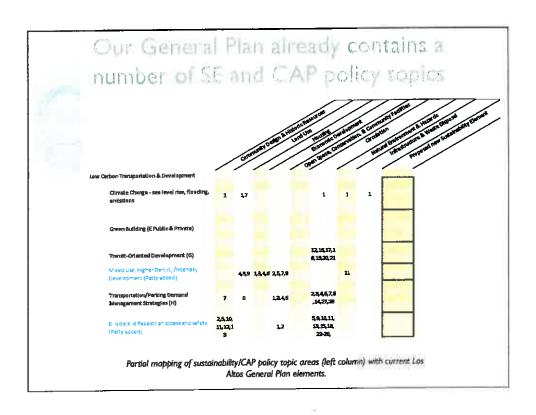
An emissions inventory that breaks down the city's emissions into categories (e.g. transportation, building energy, waste, etc.)

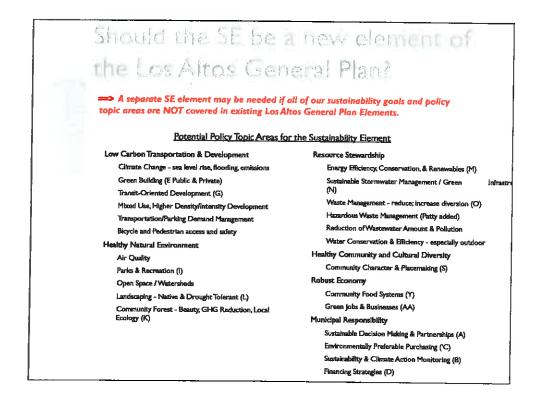
Enforceable emissions control measures

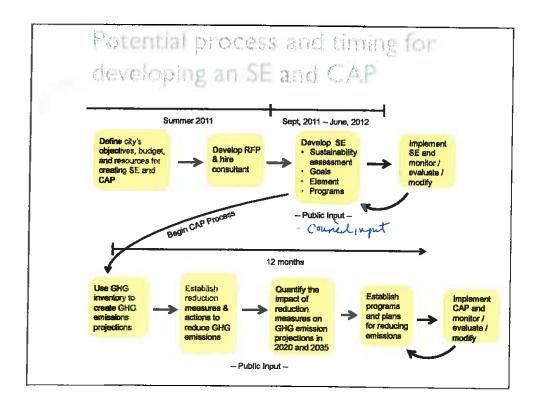
A system for monitoring and reporting to ensure that target are met.

Mechanisms to allow for the revision of the plan, if necessary to stay on target

The CAP can be a separate plan or can be spread throughout the General Plan (typically in the Land-Use, Transportation, Open Space and Housing elements).







Required resources and next steps

Required Resources

- Staff assistance during process
- Subcommittee of Environmental Commission
- Consultant to lead process
- Staff ownership of SE and CAP after they are created and implemented

Next Steps

- Confirm with staff the approach, scope, and budget for developing $\ensuremath{\mathsf{SE/CAP}}$
- Confirm roles of EC, staff, and any others who will contribute to this effort
- EC assists staff in developing RFP for consultant and selecting consultant



PROGRAM TIP: Recycle More!

Looking to recycle something that Mission Trail doesn't accept in the blue cart? Visit www.RecycleStuff.org and try out their search tool!





650-473-1400 www.MissionTrail.com

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The Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Facility accepts the following materials:

Flammables—paints*, petroleum-based products, polishes
Corrosives—acids, bases, batteries*, drain clog remover
Toxics—poisons, pesticides, gardening chemicals, ammonia, solvents
Oxidizers—pool chemicals, hydrogen peroxide, iodine, perchlorates
Miscellaneous—propane, helium, small oxygen tanks, smoke detectors
Medical Waste—prescription and over-the-counter drugs, used sharps (syringes, needles, and lancets that are inside a red bio-hazardous container)





For location, operating hours, a more detailed list of acceptable items, or to make an appointment, visit **www.hhw.org** or call 408-299-7300.

*Mission Trail also provides curbside collection of these items. Visit our website for details. 650-473-1400 www.MissionTrail.com

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